

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02  
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04  
USIA-15 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 FRB-01  
LAB-04 SIL-01 /123 W  
-----070940Z 056490 /10

R 061405Z MAY 77  
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3722  
INFO ERDA WASHINGTON  
ERDA GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 04580

STATE PASS TO U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: TECH, PARM, ENRG, EEC  
SUBJECT: 200 TONS OF MISSION URANIUM

1. EUROPE, NO. 2211, DATED FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1977, HAS  
PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE CONCERNING THE 1968 LOSS  
OF 200 TONS OF URANIUM OXIDE.

BEGIN TEXT: QTE EURATOM INVESTIGATION INTO DIVERSION, IN 1968,  
OF 200 TONNES OF URANIUM OXIDE, HAS YIELDED NO RESULT.  
THE INVESTIGATION CARRIED OUT BY EURATOM, FOLLOWING THE  
DISAPPEARANCE IN 1968 OF 560 BARRELS OF NATURAL URANIUM  
OXIDE TOTALLING 200 TONNES, WAS CLOSED IN JUNE 1970 WITHOUT  
ANY RESULT, AND IT WAS THEREFORE NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE  
THE FATE OF THE MERCHANDISE IN QUESTION, OR OF THE CARGO OF  
THE QTE SCHEERBERGS UNQTE WHICH HAD CARRIED THE BARRELS AND  
WHICH, AFTER HAVING SAILED UNDER THE FLAG OF THE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, TOOK THE LIBERIAN FLAG AT  
ANTWERP. THIS INFORMATION ON THE DISTURBING AFFAIR OF  
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THE DISAPPEARANCE WITHOUT TRACE OF 200 TONNES OF NATURAL  
URANIUM OXIDE BETWEEN ANTWERP AND GENOA (SEE EUROPE OF  
YESTERDAY AND THE DAY BEFORE) WAS GIVEN TODAY BY THE  
COMMISSION SPOKESMAN, MR. RUGGIERO, WHO MOREOVER READ A  
COMMISSION DECLARATION CONFIRMING THE DENIAL PUBLISHED  
YESTERDAY REGARDING THE TWO FORMER EURATOM OFFICIALS  
WHICH CERTAIN PRESS ELEMENTS HAVE WRONGLY ACCUSED OF

BEING INVOLVED IN THE AFFAIR.

MR. RUGGIERO STATED THAT THE VENDOR OF THE PRODUCT HAD BEEN THE SOCIETE GENERALE DES MINERAIS IN BRUSSELS, THE PURCHASER BEING THE GERMAN COMPANY ASMARA CHEMIE, GMBH AT HETTENHAIN, NEAR WISBADEN. THE PARTNER OF THE ASMARA COMPANY WAS THE SAICA (SOCIETE ANONYMA ITALIANA COLORI ED AFFINI) COMPANY OF MILAN WHICH HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE CATALYSERS FOR THE PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY. THIS WAS THEREFORE A CLASSICAL USE AND NOT A NUCLEAR USE OF URANIUM OXIDE, THE FINISHED PRODUCT HAVING BEEN INTENDED FOR THE ASMARA COMPANY.

THE CONTRACTS WERE NOTIFIED TO EURATOM BY THE BUYER (ASMARA COMPANY), ON 17 OCTOBER 1968, AND BY THE VENDOR (THE SOCIETE GENERALE DES MINERAIS) ON 22 OCTOBER OF THE SAME YEAR. IT WAS THE EURATOM COMMISSION WHICH DETECTED THE AFFAIR ON 16 NOVEMBER 1968. THE COMPANIES INVOLVED BEGAN BY GIVING DILATORY REPLIES TO THE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM THE COMMISSION WHICH WORKED IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE GERMAN, BELGIAN, AND ITALIAN GOVERNMENTS, AS WELL AS WITH THAT OF THE UNITED STATES. AT THE TIME, EURATOM CONTROL WAS MOREOVER ONLY EXERCISED AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF TRANSACTIONS, AND THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THIS CARGO (THE ONLY ONE TO OCCUR SINCE THE COMING INTO FORCE OF THE EURATOM TREATY) MOREOVER ENCOURAGED THE COMMISSION TO IN 1970 PRESENT A PROPOSAL FOR A CHANGE IN THE EURATOM CONTROL REGULATION, IN ORDER TO ALSO GIVE CONTROL COVER TO THE INTERMEDIATE STAGES, NOTABLY

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TRANSPORTATION AND MARKETING. THIS REGULATION WAS MOREOVER APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL IN AUTUMN 1976.

THE SPOKESMAN FURTHER STATED THAT THE EURATOM SECURITY CONTROL BEGIN BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF COMMUNITY TERRITORIALITY, INSPECTIONS ARE NOT EXTENDED TO WHAT HAPPENS ON THE HIGH SEAS. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT ABLE TO ANSWER THE FAIRLY DISTURBING QUESTION OF WHY NONE OF THE COMPANIES CONCERNED COMPLAINED FOLLOWING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF 200 TONNES OF NATURAL URANIUM OXIDE. UNQTE  
END TEXT.

2. SHOULD THERE BE ANY DISCREPANCIES WITH OUR ACCOUNT OF THIS STORY, MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION.  
HINTON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLICATIONS, NUCLEAR ENERGY, URANIUM, TEXT  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** 200 TONS OF MISSION URANIUM  
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**Type:** TE  
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